

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

Extensive changes to the motor vehicle emission inspection program will result from state law revisions that directed Ecology to authorize additional businesses to emission test vehicles starting July 2012. Rather than revise the existing rule Chapter 173-422, Ecology is purposing a new rule to govern the motor vehicle emission inspection program. The existing rule, Chapter 173-422, will remain in effect through June 2012.

The proposed rule includes the requirements that will apply starting July 1, 2012, to the Washington state motor vehicle emission inspection program. The revised program requirements include:

- Having all testing by authorized testers done online using with the state contractor's computer system.
- Eliminating the gas cap test and dynamometer testing.
- Passing an OBD retest requires that the monitor(s) that detected a problem on the initial test be ready.
- Requiring the same test standards for all 1995 model year and older gasoline vehicles.
- Exempting light-duty diesel vehicles from testing.
- Tightening the test standards for heavy-duty diesel vehicles.
- Exempting heavy-duty diesel vehicles with an engine meeting 2007 emission standards or equipped with an exhaust particle filter from testing.
- Extensive rewording and reorganization to make the rule clearer and easier to understand.
- Other provisions necessary to implement the program.

Reasons supporting proposal

The proposed rule will facilitate the emission testing and repair by more businesses and reduce the impact of emission testing on the owners of older vehicles. Testing procedures and other requirements that are becoming less relevant will be discontinued. These cost saving measures are possible because of the ever increasing number of newer vehicles that are tested by obtaining information from the vehicle's OBD system.